

FENNER MELSTROM & DOOLING, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a regular user of Microsoft products, I would like to write in support of settling the federal lawsuit at the end of this month. The tactics used by Microsoft, despite the opinion of the Justice Department are, in my opinion, not monopolistic and further legal action should no longer be necessary.

Analogous to the experience of Henry Rearden, as narrated in the book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand, the disruption of the free-market system to stifle a business in favor of its lesser competitors only gives power to those who misuse or squander it. Microsoft has not used its power to gauge the public, so to punish the company only punishes consumers, who have been receiving a user-friendly and efficient product at very minimal cost. Though I support many of the concepts in the settlement, such as anti-retaliation laws, my overarching concern is with the government mandate on behavior that should be the personal business of Microsoft. In the interest of moving forward, this agreement is the best compromise possible and the most effective way to appease the critics without disabling a company's ability to create and grow.

Please end this debilitating legal action and allow Microsoft to implement these very fair terms. All questions of competitiveness should be answered from here forward by letting the free market be able to determine the winner as it should be. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


John W. Melstrom, CPA
Partner

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